Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

MAY 2014

Mulching and Weed Management in the Urban Landscape

By **Richard W. Harper** and **Randall Prostack**

With some of the controversies associated with the use of certain pesticides in the urban environment, it comes as no surprise that experts usually agree that landscape mulches should be the first line of defense against weeds in most settings. Though it may not entirely eliminate the need for herbicide applications, the proper use of mulch can go a long way to preventing them – especially around newly planted trees, in landscape beds, and along outdoor trails or paths.

Mulch – which comes from the term 'molsch' meaning 'soft' – may be separated into two basic categories: organic mulches that are derived from plant sources and non-organic materials that may be used as a ground covering. Organic mulches include chipped or shredded bark, cocoa or buckwheat hulls, hay, straw, deciduous leaves, conifer needles, grass clippings, and compost; their non-organic equivalents include stone aggregate, river rock or pebbles, marble chip, crushed brick, and recycled shredded rubber. Whether organic or non-organically derived, each of these products offers a varying degree of positive and negative characteristics that should be given careful consideration before use. Shredded rubber, for example, may be persistent and not need a lot of attention; however, it was determined to be more combustible than other types of mulch and indeed may create a serious disposal problem.

Up Ahead:

Whatever type of mulch is selected, it is important to keep in mind that the timing of a mulch application may also be important. For example, if summer annual weeds are the dominant herbaceous weed problem on the site, then the application of mulch should take place in the spring. On the other hand, mulch should be applied in late summer and very early fall if winter annual weeds are the main concern. Urban trees and other woody ornamentals that are being established in a park or landscape-type location such as a greenway or garden setting should be mulched after planting, to a depth of three to four inches (with no mulch contacting the bark of the tree… and please, no "Volcano" mulching). Herbaceous perennials on the other hand, require only two to three inches of mulch. Once mulches are placed, any type of disturbance should be avoided as the mulch "barrier" performs best relative to weed prevention when left undisturbed. Hoeing, hand weeding, and foot traffic are examples of activities that may result in mulch disturbance and create environments conducive to weed germination in the planting bed.

A mulch pile that has been "tarped down" to hold in place before application.

While mulch can be used to smother very small summer and winter annual weeds, as well as seedling perennial weeds, it should not be applied over establish perennial weeds. Perennial weeds should be eliminated before mulching is initiated.

Weed management and mulch performance

From a weed-management perspective, non-organic mulches will usually perform better than those that are organic. Materials like stone and marble chip do not hold moisture and, therefore, are not as conducive to weed germination, establishment, and growth as the organic, plant-based mulches are. Organic mulches that are lighter in color typically perform better than those that are darker in color, however. Lighter-colored mulches absorb less solar radiation, and therefore tend to be cooler; since there is a direct relationship between temperatures and microbial activity, they provide less favor-

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able conditions for weed germination, establishment, and growth.

Coarse-textured organic mulches will normally perform better than finer-textured mulches. The larger, coarse-textured fragments of mulch dry out more readily after irrigation or rainfall, and similar to temperature, there is a direct relationship between moisture and the germination of the weed seeds and seedling survival. Regardless of texture, however, it is important to keep in mind that, typically, organic mulch products require more attention than those that are non-organic, since they inevitably break down and require additional reinforcements. Compost mulches are typically dark in coloration, readily retain moisture, and are usually fine-textured. They may also contain significant amounts of nutrients (i.e. nitrogen, phosphorus) and serve as a potential source of weed seed. For these reasons, compost is generally not recommended as a mulching material in most circumstances.

Landscape fabrics are a form of ground covering, and thus their use may technically fall into the category of a form or type of mulching. After a period of time, however, weeds may root directly into the landscape ground cover fabric and show themselves to be very difficult to remove – especially perennial weeds that reproduce vegetatively. Fabrics can create a barrier that impedes water infiltration and hinders the exchange of gases between the soil and atmosphere, often resulting in the restriction of ornamental plant growth. Fabrics can also pose a challenge in windy locations, as a traditional mulch covering that may be placed on top of the fabric will be more likely to move (i.e. blow) offsite. Though perhaps best used beneath a significant layer of a non-organic mulch to prevent the loss of material from sinking as a result of the freeze and thaw cycle, landscape fabrics may end up being more trouble than they are worth.

Though these mulch management strategies will not prevent weeds entirely, they will reduce weed germination and establishment, giving the plants that we desire a competitive advantage and giving us, as the plant "tenders," more time to respond.

It is important to note that Massachusetts has a mulch safety regulation in effect (2012), and readers are encouraged to learn more by searching 'MA Mulch Safety' or by visiting: http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/pubed/fs-topics/fs-topics-a/mulch-fire-safety.html

Mulch—Etymologically Speaking

By **Mollie Freilicher**

Rick and Randy piqued my curiosity with their mention of the origins of the word "mulch," and I wanted to explore that a little more. A quick look at the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) provided some good insight. The word first appeared in 1657 in Samuel Purchas's "physio-theological" book, *A Theatre of Political Flying-Insects: Wherein Especially the Nature, the Worth, the Work, The Wonder, and the Manner of Right-Ordering of the Bee is Discovered and Described.* This is an extensive account of different kinds of wild and kept bees, bee behavior, hive life, honey, and wax, followed by moral and theological meditations on bees and bee-keeping. Talk about piquing interest; I would love to see that book! The related *mölsch* (and its variants, although according to the OED, rarely used in the modern "mulch" sense), comes from the German, relating to soft or moist soil, and dates back to the mid-15th century. We have been writing about weeds, however, for much longer. The first appearance of the word "weed" (as *weod,* from the Old English) appeared in 888 in King Alfred's Old English translation of Boethius's *De Consolatione Philosophiæ (The Consolation of Philosophy)*, a major Classical work from the sixth century. King Alfred, if you need a refresher on English history, was king of the West-Saxons and defended England against the Vikings and Danes…and also, because he valued education and literacy, found time to translate many major philosophical works.

Tree City/Tree Campus/Tree Line USA Forum and Award Ceremony

June 4, 2014
Andover, MA

Contact Mollie Freilicher for information

Species Spotlight—Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*

By **Mollie Freilicher**
MA-DCR
Community Action Forester

While not endemic to New England, the Ohio Buckeye is native to North America and is found from western Pennsylvania and Maryland, south to northern Alabama, west to Iowa and Missouri, and north through the Midwest and into Ontario. It grows best in rich, well-drained soil in partly sunny or shady conditions and is often found growing along streambanks in areas where it is native. Ohio buckeye is also known as "American horsechestnut" or "fetid buckeye" for the foul smell the twigs and leaves emit when crushed. The common name "buckeye" comes from Native American groups that called the tree *hetuck*, for the resemblance of its seed to the eye of a buck. Ohio buckeye is a medium-sized tree, reaching heights of 30-40 feet in cultivation, with a similar spread. In the wild, it can reach heights of 70 feet in the open, but where it occurs as an understory tree, it is smaller. Ohio buckeye has a rounded form with a dense canopy, often with branches down to the ground.

The leaves of Ohio buckeye are opposite and are palmately compound. They have five elliptical, serrate leaflets that are bright green when fresh out, turn to a darker green, and eventually change to yellow or orange-red before falling off in early fall. (Sometimes very early fall.) Buds are scaly and hairy, and the terminal bud is brown and large, about 2/3-inch-long, with prominent scales. Twigs are gray to red-brown in color, stout, and pubescent on new growth, becoming smooth with age. The bark is ashy-gray and scaly, becoming platy as trees age.

Ohio buckeye, like other trees in the *Aesculus* genus, has flowers of note; however, they are not as prominent as other flowers in the genus. The yellow-green flowers bloom in mid-May, and each flower is 3/4 to 1-inch long, with four petals, and forms a three to seven-inch-long upright panicle. The flowers bloom after the leaves appear, so they are not quite as prominent. The fruit is a light-brown, spiny solitary capsule that matures in autumn. The seeds, as well as young shoots from trees, are poisonous to humans and animals, although squirrels have been known to eat the seeds (and live!)

Like its often-planted European cousin, European horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Ohio buckeye has some problems and may be best planted in natural areas or parks. Leaf blotch, leaf scorch, and powdery mildew are common issues for Ohio buckeye, and leaf and fruit litter can also be problematic in high-use or high-traffic areas. Ohio buckeye does not tolerate drought or extremely dry conditions and can develop scorch when planted in full sun. Ohio buckeye is not a good candidate for a street tree, but would be suitable in naturalized settings.

Wood from Ohio buckeye has been used in furniture, flooring, boxes, musical instruments, and artificial limbs and although it is easy to work and does not split easily, it is not of great commercial value. For some buckeye-related trivia, Ohio buckeye has the distinction of being one of the few botanical mascots for a college or university. If you haven't seen Brutus Buckeye of The Ohio State University, you should take a look.

Photos: Form: Univ. of Illinois Extension; Leaf, Flower, Bark, Bud, Fruit: Virginia Tech

Growing on Trees

From the Mass Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA)

Tree Warden Exchange Program

MTWFA is offering an exchange program for municipal arborists located within Massachusetts. Each participant will spend one to two days visiting and working with another town or city forestry department. Professional exchanges will take place in the summer of 2014.

An exchange may be one-way or two-way. A "one-way exchange" means that a selected participant will visit the tree warden in a host community. A "two-way exchange" means that paired participants take turns hosting the other in their respective communities. A two-way exchange is preferred. If necessary, MTWFA and contributing sponsors will fund gas and lodging.

All four tree wardens who participated in Round One of the Tree Warden Exchange Program have been enthusiastic about their experiences, and they want to let you know that it's well worth it! Accounts of the Chelsea-Boston exchange were published in the winter issue of the BARK, and we hope to print the reports from the Medford-Wellesley exchange in the summer issue. The Round Two application (**due May 30**) is now available on the MTWFA website, at the link noted below, or by phone or email request to the MTWFA office. New for Round Two: applicants may indicate their preference for community size to visit: small, medium or large. It's a great opportunity!

For more information:

Download the application and read more about the program at: http://masstreewardens.org/tree-warden-exchange/

Or contact the MTWFA: info@masstreewardens.org or 781-894-4759.

Panel Discussion on Boston's Trees and Climate Change

How can the City and community work together to invest in trees to prepare for climate change and improve the overall quality of life?

Come learn about the value of Boston's trees, recent research on Boston's urban forest and changing climate, neighborhood tree efforts, the impacts of urban infrastructure, and what steps the City and community can take to grow a healthy city and prepare for climate change.

Tuesday, May 6, 2014
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Boston Public Library, Main Branch, Orientation Room
700 Bolyston Street, Boston, MA

Panelists:

Peter del Tredici, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University and Arnold Arboretum, *What We Can Do for the Trees*
Lucy Hutyra, Assistant Professor of Earth and Environment, Boston University, *Trees in Boston's Urban Metabolism: Carbon sequestration, emissions control, where to plant in Boston*
Joel Wool, Clean Water Action, *Trees and the impact of utility gas leaks; tree planting in state energy efficiency efforts*
Susan Labandibar, Founder of Southie Trees
What a neighborhood can do to invest in trees, engage residents, and work with developers to protect trees
Christine Poff, Boston Park Advocates and Franklin Park Coalition, *The Role of Policy and Advocacy in Urban Forestry; Positive Impacts of Trees on Public Health and Crime*

Panel presentation followed by a brief Q&A session
Attendees can submit comments on Boston's tree policies to the City's Climate Action Plan, being revised this summer. Space is Limited.

Register to attend: email: info@bostonnatural.org or call 617.542.7696

Organized by Boston Natural Areas Network
bostonnatural.org

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.

Growing on Trees

From UMASS

Intensive, Two-Week Summer College Arboriculture Course for High School Students at UMass Amherst

Maintaining Trees in the Urban Forest

Arboriculture is the art, business, and science of caring for trees in residential areas. Trees provide many benefits like shading houses and cleaning the air and water; they also improve our quality of life. Planting trees in our towns and cities is a great way to make them nicer places to live and work.

Students in the Arboriculture and Urban Forestry program will learn the importance of trees and how to care for them. Students will take a proactive approach to climate change as they learn what they can do now and in the future to make their communities greener. Arboriculture and urban forestry are core aspects of environmental conservation.

This program will cover a number of earth science-related topics including: botany, physiology, soil composition, run-off, and pollution. Students will also receive hands-on experiential training in: identifying trees, identifying disease in trees, climbing trees (knot tying, ascension, limb walking, tree worker safety), pruning, plant health care, and pest management.

Our two-week intensive course will balance academic study of the science and business of arboriculture with an introduction to the basic skills required to work in the field.

Arborists are in great demand in many towns and cities because it is important to properly plant and maintain trees. There are currently multiple career opportunities for graduates with either a two- or a four-year degree in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry from UMass -Amherst. For more information, go to: http://www.umass.edu/summercollege/maintaining-trees-urban-forest.

Urban Forestry Today: An Online Learning Forum for Professionals and Tree Enthusiasts

Hear the latest from researchers and professionals from universities, municipalities, and industry as they discuss their most recent findings, from research to practice, that will enable us to protect and enhance the health of our community trees.

On **Thursday May 22, 2014 from Noon – 1:00 PM Eastern** visit www.joinwebinar.com (#698426215) to hear Rick Harper, Extension Assistant Professor of Urban & Community Forestry, kick-off and outline this season's four-part webinar series. During this one-hour lecture he will provide an ***Urban Forestry Update*** detailing the latest extension and research activities pertaining to the care of urban trees.

This broadcast is free and will offer the opportunity to earn professional CEU's.

For more information, contact:

Rick Harper, Department of Environmental Conservation
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
rharper@eco.umass.edu, 413-545-3747

Sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association, University of Massachusetts Extension, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation.

Professional Management Guide for Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

UMass Extension's Professional *Management Guide for Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* has been freshly revised and updated for the 2014 season and is now available in a new electronic format. Most of the disease pathogens known to be pests of woody ornamentals in the Northeast region are covered in the guide. Included is host plant information, along with appropriate fungicides, bactericides, biological control materials, and also cultural management information, where applicable. Visit http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/diseaseguide to access the guide right now!

Growing on Trees

UMass Extension

Diagnostic Services

The UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab is available to serve commercial landscape contractors, turf managers, arborists, nurseries, and other green industry professionals. It provides woody plant and turf disease analysis, woody plant and turf insect identification, turfgrass identification, and weed identification and offers a report of pest management strategies that are research-based, economically sound, and environmentally appropriate for the situation. Accurate diagnosis for a turf or landscape problem can often eliminate or reduce the need for pesticide use. For sampling procedures, detailed submission instructions, and a list of fees, see Plant Problem Diagnostics.

Soil and Plant Tissue Testing - The University of Massachusetts Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory is located on the campus of The University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Testing services are available to all. The function of the Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory is to provide test results and recommendations that lead to the wise and economical use of soils and soil amendments. For complete information, visit the UMass Soil and Plant tissue Testing Laboratory website at: http://soiltest.umass.edu/ Alternatively, call the lab at (413) 545-2311.

Tick Testing

Ticks are active when temperatures are above freezing!! UMass tests ticks for the presence of Lyme disease and other disease pathogens. Learn more.

Announcing Our New Name: The Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment

The Center for Agriculture in the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) is now the **Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment**. The Center was founded in 2001, although its component units are far older, notably the Mass. Agricultural Experiment Station (1882), UMass Extension (founded 1914), and the Water Resources Research Center (founded 1965).

The Center works in partnership across the UMass campus with 16 departments across four schools and colleges. The Center sponsors research, funds Extension faculty, and creates educational programs, services, and resources linked to many of the educational institutions.

Dean Steve Goodwin of CNS, remarked, "I asked the Faculty Senate to approve the Center's new name because I believe it better represents what we actually do and represents the web of linked areas in which we work. We focus on subjects from farming to environmental stewardship, human health, climate change, food science, water resources, green industry, and youth development. It's a significant list, and this new name and logo help tell the story."

Pat Vittum, Interim Director of the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, observed that, "the Center is a comprehensive research and outreach center around issues deeply important to many University departments and important to our communities, farms, families, and businesses. We want all who interact with us to understand the depth of our work and the breadth of our ability to be responsive to emerging issues in Massachusetts in service to the public good. We hope that our new name helps to accomplish that goal." Check out the new website: http://ag.umass.edu/

Growing on Trees

Patrick Administration Announces Urban Tree Planting Program to Reduce Energy Use

BOSTON – Friday, April 4, 2014 – Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rick Sullivan today announced a new tree planting program to reduce energy use in urban neighborhoods and lower heating and cooling costs for residents and businesses. Through the Greening the Gateway Cities program, EEA will invest $5 million to plant trees in the cities of Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke between April 2014 and December 2015.

"Greening the Gateway Cities complements our efforts to insulate older buildings and has additional benefits of reduced stormwater pollution and treatment and cleaner air," said Secretary Sullivan. "An upfront investment in tree planting across an urban neighborhood will pay back energy and water savings for decades as trees grow and mature, as well as make the cities greener and more beautiful."

Planting approximately 15,000 trees in Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke over the next two years will lead to a 10 percent increase in canopy cover in the targeted neighborhoods, benefitting around 14,000 households. This increase in canopy is expected to reduce heating and cooling costs in the selected areas by approximately 10 percent, with an average homeowner saving approximately $230 a year, once the trees reach maturity. Over their lifespan, the trees are expected to lead to $400 million in energy savings for residents and businesses.

The Commonwealth's 26 Gateway Cities have lower tree canopy than other areas of the state because of their urban character and history of heavy industry and manufacturing. The targeted areas within Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke were selected because of their low tree canopy cover, high population density, high wind levels, and older, poorly-insulated housing.

"We are proud to invest in trees, which are not only beautiful and uplifting for urban communities, but are long-term, frontline allies in meeting our energy and climate goals," said DOER Commissioner Mark Sylvia.

MassDevelopment, which works closely with the Patrick Administration on the revitalization of Gateway Cities, will document the results of this pilot program and evaluate how it could be scaled up to be implemented in the Commonwealth's 26 Gateway Cities. This program is expected to leverage private utility investment in green infrastructure, which has a positive impact on energy efficiency and community development.

To carry out the Greening the Gateway Cities Program, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will partner with city governments and community organizations to plant approximately 15,000 trees on public and private land by December 2015. EEA has allocated $1 million of capital funding and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has committed $4 million in Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) made by retail electricity suppliers that do not meet their statutory Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard obligation to purchase a sufficient percentage of renewable energy. The Patrick Administration also received an $85,000 grant from the United States Forest Service to help local non-profits in these three cities in tree planting efforts to reduce stormwater pollution and municipal treatment costs.

"The value of urban trees became clear to us when we documented a 40 percent increase in summer electricity usage in a Worcester neighborhood after nearly all trees had to be removed due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle epidemic," said DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "We are looking forward to working with our local partners to plant 15,000 trees in Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke."

The benefits of tree planting programs are greatest when tree canopy is increased over an entire neighborhood. Many major American cities, including Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland (Oregon), and Sacramento have implemented tree planting programs as a way of fighting climate change impacts and stormwater infiltration.

Tree planting is part of EEA's strategy to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets set forth by the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The GWSA requires a 25 percent GHG reduction of 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050.

This new program will benefit the local economies of Chelsea, Fall River, and Holyoke by creating jobs for local residents. DCR will hire local workers for tree planting teams in each city, and every tree being planted will be purchased from Massachusetts nurseries.

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Growing on Trees

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"Making Fall River a greener and more livable city has been a top priority for me," said Fall River Mayor William Flanagan. "We are looking forward to working with the Patrick Administration and with the Fall River Street Tree Planting Program on this initiative, which will reduce energy costs for our residents and businesses and help make Fall River a better place to live."

"This investment will have a lasting impact on Holyoke's environment and green infrastructure," said Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. "This funding will help keep the city's utility rates among the lowest in the Commonwealth. I'm thankful that the Secretary and Governor continue to support us in these efforts, and I look forward to seeing the legacy this project will have on future generations to come."

"As one of the most densely populated cities in the country, Chelsea is in great position to benefit from the Greening the Gateway Cities program," said Chelsea City Manager Jay Ash. "We appreciate the Patrick Administration's commitment to improving the quality of life of Chelsea residents. The Chelsea Department of Public Works and the Chelsea Green Space Committee, our community partner, are ready to get to work and start planting."

"Green infrastructure projects, like this tree planting program, yield a multitude of far-reaching returns by simultaneously protecting the environment, providing energy savings for residents, and beautifying our communities," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues. "I am pleased to know that my constituents in Fall River, and all those living in Gateways Cities, will enjoy the benefits of these trees for years to come."

"Planting these trees will provide several huge benefits to our communities, including fresher air, reduced energy costs, and jobs to local residents," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "Not only will the local economy and individuals profit, but our neighborhoods will become healthier places to live."

"Thank you to the Patrick Administration for this investment in our Gateway Cities," said Representative Paul Schmid. "This pilot program will be helpful in beautifying our neighborhoods as well as hopefully mitigating negative environmental impacts in Fall River especially in the Flint and Maplewood neighborhoods."

Careers in Landscape Architecture Website

04/07/2014 by The Dirt Contributor

The American Society of Landscape Architects has launched a new Career Discovery website to help young people explore the profession of landscape architecture. To help teachers steer young people toward the field, a new resource center has also been created, filled with classroom activities.

The Career Discovery website, aimed at students in middle school and high school, explains what a landscape architect does and how to become one. With a background that features the evolution of Columbus Circle in New York City from sketch to reality, the website shows how landscape architects creatively solve complex urban and environmental issues through design. Columbus Circle was redesigned by OLIN, a landscape architecture firm, and received a 2006 ASLA Honor Award in the General Design category.

The website also includes two videos—"Personal Paths" and "Why Become a Landscape Architect?"—featuring landscape architects and designers on why landscape architecture is the perfect career for art- and science-oriented students.

Tools for Teachers is a new education hub for K-12 teachers. It is loaded with fun, free classroom activities that will inspire lesson plans and start classroom dialogues about landscape architecture. It includes links to all of ASLA's educational resources, including:

Hands-on classroom activities aligned to national teaching standards
The Roof is Growing! green roof education program
Designing Our Future: Sustainable Landscapes online exhibition offering educational animations, case studies, and K-12 classroom activities
A link to a reservation form to visit the green roof on ASLA's Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Seen in the ASLA newsletter The Dirt

Growing on Trees

From Mass Department of Agricultural Resources

All About ALB & EAB

Choose from Two Free Sessions

Thursday, May 15, 2014 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Southborough Public Library,
17 Common St., Southborough, MA 01772

Sunday, May 18, 2014 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church,
19 Church Rd., Shrewsbury, MA

Learn to identify the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) and emerald ash borer (EAB). Join Stacy Kilb, Asian Longhorned Beetle Outreach Coordinator with MDAR, for a one-hour presentation about how to identify the beetles and the damage they cause to trees and what you can do about them.

For more information contact Stacy Kilb, stacy.kilb@state.ma.us or at 617-626-1764.

Tweet, Tweet

The Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project is a collaboration between the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources and the UMass Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program. The website www.massnrc.org/pests is a premier site for information about ALB and EAB in Massachusetts.

Follow Mass Introduced Pest Outreach on Twitter: @MassPests

Tweeting about invasive species?
Use these Forest Pest Hashtags: http://bit.ly/1jtOlgN @dntmovefirewood #forestpests #InvSp #sharingisgood

ArborMaster Trainings in New England

This May in Mansfield, CT: Multi-day courses on Precision Tree Felling, Chainsaw Safety and Handling, Tree Climbing Methods, and Work Positioning and Best Practice. Additional courses will be offered in Massachusetts and Connecticut in September and October 2014.
For more information on courses, go to: http://www.arbormaster.com/services/location-schedule.

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline May 1

The next round for our Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants is here.
Challenge grants are **50-50 matching grants** (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and nonprofit groups in Massachusetts communities of **all sizes** for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

For more information on the Challenge Grants (including our NSTAR Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants) go to the DCR website or contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us or Mollie Freilicher 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

Missed the May 1 deadline? Apply in our next round—November 1.

The Spring 2014 replanting crew. Replanting has begun for the spring season in the Worcester County Asian Longhorned Beetle Regulated Area. If you live in the regulated area and would like a free tree planted in your yard, call 508-852-8073 to schedule an appointment with a replanting staff member.

Growing on Trees

Reading the Forested Landscape

Free Lecture with Tom Wessels

May 8, 6:00 p.m.
Greenfield Community College
Free and open to all.

The fascinating history of the forests of western Massachusetts is on display for all to see if you know where to look. If you want to learn how to look a little closer, join Tom Wessels for a talk about how to decipher the evidence etched into our forested landscape to unravel its complex stories on Thursday, May 8, at Greenfield Community College. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, Tom will teach you how to piece together the stories and history of our local forests. This program is based on Tom's book, *Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England*, which teaches us to read a landscape the way we might solve a mystery.

This special opportunity is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Stewardship Program and the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute, as a way to help people learn more about the land use history of their woods.

Tom Wessels is an ecologist and founding director of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. Presently, he is Faculty Emeritus. Tom has conducted landscape ecology and sustainability workshops throughout the United States for over 30 years. His books include: *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, *The Myth of Progress*, and *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*.

For more information or directions, contact Wendy Ferris at 413.625.9151 or wferris@franklinlandtrust.org

Public Meeting
Recommendations to Improve The Arborway Crossing at The Arnold Arboretum

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 – 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist
Six Eliot Street (Across from the Monument)

At this meeting, co-hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Arborway Coalition and partners, recommendations for pedestrian/bicyclist safety improvements at the Upper Arborway crossing at the Arboretum main entrance will be presented. Funding for the transportation planning and engineering services that have resulted in these recommendations has been provided through DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds Program and by the Arborway Coalition and partners.

After the presentation, DCR will solicit public input on the recommendations and respond to questions. The presentation will be viewable soon after the public meeting on DCR's website at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/.

If you have questions about the public meeting, please call 617-626-4974 or email DCR.Updates@state.ma.us.

News

DCR's Sawmill on Wheels Keeps Lumber Local in State Forests

By Scott Stafford

4/29/14—Charlemont -- It seems simple: If someone needs lumber, get it from local trees. But the forestry industry in Massachusetts has been in decline for some time, in part because people buy lumber that is produced elsewhere. On Monday, Sean Mahoney, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's outreach service forester, brought DCR's portable sawmill to the Mohawk Trail State Forest, the state park in Charlemont, to help keep lumber local. At the park, some old pine trees that posed safety hazards to visitors were recently taken down. Mahoney and his traveling band saw came by to cut them into lumber for use in several state park improvements, keeping the wood in the forest in which it grew. Read the full story in *The Berkshire Eagle*.

News

Vancouver, Canada Residents No Longer Allowed to Cut Down Healthy Trees

By Matthew Robinson

4/16/14—Vancouver city councilors gave the nod this week to plans to plant thousands of new trees and bar residents from cutting any down, taking a literal approach to the municipality's greenest city initiative. City staff aim to plant 150,000 new trees by 2020 as part of the new Urban Forest Strategy. Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a news release that the strategy "will ensure a clear and balanced approach to protecting, expanding, and maintaining our urban forest." There are roughly 140,000 street trees and 300,000 park trees in the city, according to the release. The city has no estimate as to how many trees are on private property, but by repealing Section 4.5 of the Protection of Trees Bylaw, the council has prohibited residents from chopping any of their healthy, mature ones down. Property owners can now only remove trees that are hazardous, dead, diseased, or dying, within a new building footprint, or interfering with drainage systems, sewage systems, or utilities. The push for more and bigger trees comes after the city's canopy cover declined steadily since 1995, according to city data. From *The Vancouver Sun*. Read an earlier article on the initiative here.

Efforts Underway to 'ReGreen Springfield'

Springfield, MA (WGGB) — Making Springfield greener. That was the aim of a group of workers and volunteers in the Upper Hill section of the city. They came together to plant trees in some areas that could use some sprucing up, getting down and dirty on Rochelle Street. ReGreen Springfield, along with dozens of volunteers, planted trees that could last a century. Watch the news segment and learn about the planting that took place on April 10 at ABC40.

Arbor Day of Service
Childs Park, Northampton

Six tree service companies volunteered their time and services marking and pruning trees at the forty acre Childs Park in Northampton. Many trees were damaged in the October Storm two years ago. President of the Childs Park Foundation David Murphy told 22News, "This is really a godsend. You know they're coming here, they're volunteering, and we're getting about thirty thousand dollars very skilled tree work from all of these different crews."Crews that came from as close as East Longmeadow and as far away as Southern New Hampshire. Watch the news segment at WWLP.com.

Chicago's 606: Abandoned Railway Transforms into Public Green Space

By Jess Baker

An abandoned elevated railway on Chicago's northwest side is undergoing a rapid transformation into a three-mile long greenway called the 606. The Trust for Public Land, along with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Parks Department, envision the park as "an urban oasis." The shuttered Bloomingdale rail line is the centerpiece of the project, according to organizers. Construction workers are tearing out the old steel tracks, paving the way for a new trail for walkers, cyclists, and runners. But the 606 is more than a trail. Once finished, it'll run through four neighborhoods, five public parks, a skate park and a new observatory, with lots of vegetation along the way. The name comes from the first three digits of Chicago's zip code: 606. As Matt Gordon, part of the group tasked with naming the park, told Chicago Tonight, "The 606 says 'This is something that belongs to everyone in Chicago.' This is something we all share." The 606 is the latest in a string of existing and proposed public greenways in major cities. New York is working on the final link of its High Line, which runs above Manhattan's west side. There's a proposal on the table in Sydney for the Goods Line, a pedestrian and cycle trail that could connect as many as 80,000 people. Read the story at weather.com.

State Grant Allows University of Massachusetts to Offer Free Tick Testing in 32 Communities

Amherst — A $111,000 grant from the Governor's Office will let scientists at the University of Massachusetts provide tick testing to people in 32 communities at no cost to them. It is an increased effort to connect the pests to illnesses, including Lyme disease. "It tells us who is getting bitten by ticks, when and where, and what the ticks may be transmitting," said Stephen Rich, Director of the UMass Laboratory of Medical Zoology. Those participating in the program, called the Tick-Borne Disease Network, are the Nantucket Health Department and public health departments in Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, and Shelburne. In Middlesex County, the member towns are Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, and Winchester. In Barnstable County, they are Barnstable, Brewster, Bourne, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth. Read more at the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.

On the Horizon

May 1 **Deadline for Applications**: Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

May 8 Reading the Forested Landscape, Free Lecture by Tom Wessels, Greenfield Community College, www.masswoods.net/events/

May 15 'Plant Something' Planting Campaign, Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, www.mnla.com

May 15 All About ALB and EAB, MDAR, Southborough Public Library, stacy.kilb@state.ma.us

May 18 All About ALB and EAB, MDAR, First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury, stacy.kilb@state.ma.us

May 19-21 Conference: Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness Conference, Antioch, NH, Antioch University

May 31 New England Chapter-ISA Tree Climbing Championship, Burlington, VT www.newenglandisa.org

May 30 Application Deadline: Tree Warden Exchange, www.masstreewardens.org

June 4 Tree City/Tree Campus/Tree Line USA Forum and Award Ceremony, Andover, MA, mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us

June 6 ISA Exam, University of Maine, Orono, www.newenglandisa.org

June 14 National Get Outdoors Day

July 16 DCR Webcast: Tree Campus USA in Massachusetts: How and Why your College or University Should Participate (Sponsored by DCR and the Arbor Day Foundation. Stay tuned for details.)

July 24 Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Trade Show, Deerfield, MA, www.mnla.com

Aug 1 ISA Exam, University of Maine, Orono, www.newenglandisa.org

Aug 2-6 ISA International Conference and Tradeshow, Milwaukee, WI, www.isa-arbor.com

Sept 28-30 New England ISA – 48th Annual Conference & Tradeshow, Burlington, VT, www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 1 **Deadline for Intent to Apply:** Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Oct 3 Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam, www.massarbor.org

Oct 3-5 Women's Tree Climbing Workshop-Level II, Petersham, MA www.newenglandisa.org

Oct 24-25 DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA

Tree City/Tree Campus/Tree Line USA Forum and Award Ceremony
June 4, 2014, Andover, MA
Contact Mollie Freilicher

Bureau of Forestry
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Julie Coop, Urban and Community Forester
julie.coop@state.ma.us, 617-626-1468

Mollie Freilicher, Community Action Forester
mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us, (413) 577-2966

***The Citizen Forester* is made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recrea-**

If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to *The Citizen Forester* (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact Mollie Freilicher or click here.

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